SPAIN AND CUBA

How the Troubles in the Island Are Viewed in Madrid.

COMMISSIONER RUBI'S WORK

Election of a New President in "Cuba Libre."

THE CASE OF THE OCTAVIA

[Madrid (April 18) Correspondence of London Standard.] For several days past we have heard of fresh difficutes in Cuba, and the most conflicting rumors have tone round the Ministerial papers, though as stoutly ma. It was reported on pretty good authority hat the two highest officials in the colony had offered o resign their posts because the home govmust be borne in mind that Senor Rubi, the Royal and Civil Commissioner, had gone out to Havana with extraordinary powers, under a royal order in council, to carry out such changes as he would think Cuba. Now, we heard last week that Sener Rubi was on his way home on the plea of ill-health, as usual in also expressed the desire to give up a very hopeless task. Of course, with these rumors came

such as a rise in the premium on gold and fresh raids of the Creoles into districts where hitherto the plantations had not suffered the much dreaded pillage and incendiarism of the Autonomists. Another favorable season for active operations has passed away, desnite the 20,000 men sent out last autumn. Genera Jovellar seems to have done little more than his predesessor, Valmaseda, toward repressing the PORMIDABLE REBELLION

which has now lasted more than eight years since the rious cause of dissent between the chiefs of the colony and the home government, as the Min not to examine the Cuban question. The warn ing came rather late, as several papers had mentioned these matters and published interesting documents, with a view to sending them by the mail which leaves to-night for the West Indies. I cannot yet assert that the resignation of General Jovellar or that of Señor Rubi will be accepted, but we cannot have better data or a better occasion for a glimpse into the state of Cuba, than

ter data, or a better occasion for a glimpse into the state of Cuba, than

THE REPORMS

proposed on the 10th of March, 1876. When the news came across the Atlantic that the Civil Commissioner had proposed to the Governor General a series of reforms and reductions to face the difficulties of the situation the people had almost got tired of waiting for any result from the mission of Señor Rubi. He had gone out in October, and his first circular, dated November 20, had declared to the chiefs of various departments that "though the state of the Cuban exchequer was not cheerful, still it was not quite desperate." Months passed, however, before the former Minister of the colonies, even with all his experience, could sufficiently master the details of the very worst administration which ever helped to ruin a country. According to his which ever helped to ruin a country. According to his own official circular, he found a daily increasing de-nett; an unlimited issue of unguaranteed paper money lalling weekly on the market; a civil war which re-quired immense sacrifices of money and lives; a

oversidence with taxes; and, finally, though his report does not mention it, a subsequent decree proves beyond doubt that Señor Rubi found prevarication, corruption and even worse, in the administration. He, therefore, suggested thanges in a circular, which is a very remarkable document, as it reveals, besides the actual evils of the present, also the caim and determined appreciation of necessary reforms. He first of all advocated economy and retrenchment in every branch of the service. He recommended a plan for unitying the dobt and for giving the public creditors something more than promissory notes which can never be discounted. He urged the necessity of uniting all the innumerable and vexatious imposts which "worry, disbestten and exasperate the taxpayers into one large impost, which each and all will pay according to his powers to do so for the common weal." I must quote from Señor Rubi's circular the following striking prophecy.—"If these reforms are not soon and at once established, and they have been repeatedly demanded for the public prosperity, it will be positively impossible in a very snort time to maintain in this island any government, any arministration, any commerce or industry, even property itself."

THIS REMARKABLE DOCUMENT

winds up with a declaration to the effect that, in compliance with the instructions and powers vested in him by His Majesty's government, the Special Commissioner submits to the Captain General of the island several decrees to carry out the reforms which he thinks both urgent and necessary. On March 10, 1876, General Jovellar and his staff were first astounded at the reforms submitted to his signature, and all the parties interested in keeping up the old abuses of the administration brought their influence to bear upon the Governor General. It must

their bid the

MOST LAWLESS MILITIA,
under the name of volunteers, and in the administration
they do not object to wink at such abuses as public
opinion dares not always unmask or denounce in the
town of Havana itself. Cuba is by such people considered as a rich prize and an inexhaustible mine, which
must be turned to good account, even if afterward come
great evils. Spain is the least object of their egotistical
viows, and the reforms of Schor Rubi came down like
an earthquake upon the Caciques, who do not care
whether King Alionso's best and richest colony be lost
on account of an unprincipled and foolish poncy. It is
much to the credit of Schor Jovellar that he countersigned the reforms proposed by Schor Rubi, and that
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THE DECREES

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THE DECRES

are four in number. The first reduces considerably the sinecures and uselessiy numerous staff of colonial employes, thereby dismissing about live hundred civil servants whose duties can easily be performed by existing departments, such as the public works, law courte, exchequer, post office, &c.

The second decree provides for the consolidation of the floating debt of the colony by the creation of two posed of five hundred dollar bonds and the second of one hundred dollar bonds. Each series would be composed of five hundred dollar bonds and the second of one hundred dollar bonds. Each series would be composed of five hundred and series would be reimbursed at par every all months. A special commission would ilquidate and determine the claims of all bearers of the floating debt exchanging their deeds for shares of the foating debt exchanging their deeds for shares of the new emission. Special reserve in the compons and bonds of this debt.

The third decree establishes a radical reform in the taxation by suppressing the extraordinary imposts on agricultural, manufacturing and realized properties, the extraordinary taxes on town property and on household slaves, the duties on bank notes and on processional patents. In feur threed in the share of cach district is precisely determined, and I see that, for instance, Havana would have to pay \$12,000,000. Cardenas, Colen and Matanizas each more than \$2,000,000. The singular part of Senor Rub's pan is that the town and provincial councils will be held responsible for the payment of their share in this impost and the town councils would have to pay. Senator Rubi can be considered to the decree is a table, in which the share each individual would have to pay. Senator Hubi to impose to the councils will be held responsible for the payment of their share in t

PRESIDENT PALMA INAUGURATED CHIEF MAGIS TRATE OF THE REPUBLIC-ALL CUBAN OFFI-CIAIS TO RETURN HOME WITHIN FOUR MONTHS.

Intense excitement prevailed among the Cubans in New York yesterday respecting news from the island to the effect that a new President had been elected. The tidings were first received by the editor of La Indethe tollowing lines: -- "Free Cuba-- Important News--Citizen C. Tomas Estrada Palma Appointed President--Radical and Energetic Decrees of ex-President Spoturno-Organization of the New Legislature-Inaugura-tion of the President-Speeches on the Occasion."

DETAILS OF THE EVENT.

Below will be found details of the induction into office of President Palma and the retirement of ex-THE NEW PRESIDENT

is a lawyor by profession, a native of Bayamo, who has

resolution:—

Whereas upon the death of President Carles Manuel do Cespedes the succession of the office of Chief Magistrate feel to Vice President General Francisco V. Aguilera, and the Company of the

history of the revolution. He was followed by Deputy
Luis Betancourt, who said:—

Mr. Parsident, you are called to the head of the
government, because you are honored, you are patrious
and because you are republican. For these reasons you
are connected with the trust of the present and future destinies of our well loved Cuba. Do not forget that our army
has fought seven years without payment, and do
not forget that although our form of government is military, still the civil government is paramount. Do not let
us forget that although our form of government is military, till the civil government is paramount. Do not let
us forget that our laws are imperfect because we live in a
revolution, and that they must be remodelled as soon as
possible. In our war with the Spanlard let us never forget
to be clemat when opportunity offers. Do not forget that
your post is not without surrounding thorns. Be firm and
caim in carrying out your duty, and for your good deeds you
will gain an eternal crown of glory.

CITEMN ENTINUSHABL.

At the conclusion of this appeal the President received the enthusiastic congratulation of the military
and civil officials present in the Council Chamber.

NEW NEWSPAPERUS.

La Republica is the new official organ of the Republic, and takes the place of the War Bulectia. The
first issue was made on the last of April, and coppes of it
reached this city yesterday. A second paper is also
now being published called La Extrella Solidaria (the
Lone Star). Copies of it are to be sent regularly to the
Herald Bureau at Paris.

Popular Proclamations.

Before Acting President Colonel Juan R. Spoturno
vacated his office in favor of President Palma, he made
the following proclamation:—

Whereas certain Cubans residing in foreign countries
have held intercouses with Spanish officials hoosing to make
peace with Spain, but not on the bases of Cuban independence, it is decreed that such conduct is disnonorable.
It said Cubans were found here they would be charged with
treachery, and if gailty sentenced

Is it also decreed that Cubans residing abroad, who are in open or secret intelligence with Spanish officials respecting a treaty of pence not on the absolute basis of Cuban independence, shall be declared trainers to their country. To toreign Cuban representatives will see that due publication is except to these decreed.

Given at the Executive Residence, March 12, 1870.

JUAN B. SPOTURNO.

Given at the Executive Residence, March 12, 1876

The first part of the above is understood to have reference to negotiations opened at Paris recently.

CURANS TO RETURN DOME.

Another and important decree of the same date orders all officials of the Cuban army, who have been sent abread on missions or other government business, to return within four months to Cuba to assume their posts in the army. Foreigners who have patriotically longist for Cuban liberty are not commanded, like the Cubans, to return. The law of November, 1873, pre-cribes that all Cuban officers not obeying the present order shall lose their rank if not on Cuban soil at the expiration of four months from the 20th, of March, 1876. This order shall be made public by all toreign agents of the Republic, Foreigners are not included in this order.

SAO NEEVO CANAQUEY, MARCH 16, 1876.

SAO NEEVO CANAQUEY, MARCH 16, 1876.

President Paima has addressed an appeal to Cubans abroad, requesting them to do all in their power to help their strugging brethren, fighting for independent

ENGLISH REFLECTIONS ON THE OCTAVIA CASE-THE BRITISH FLAG DOFS NOT COVER ALL

The position of British subjects in this country is daily becoming more uncomfortable and unsatisfactory. It is not surprising that it should be so. Several cases have unfortunately occurred here lately by which their interests have been seriously affected, and in the right

consequently been concerned.

A fresh illustration of this has just been wit-A fresh flustration of this and put over nessed here in the case of the steamship Octavia. This is lawfully a British ship, sailing lawfully under the British flag, lawfully owned by a British subject, and was upon a lawful voyage. She had complied strictly with every form required by law and practice. Her papers were in every respect in perfect order, and in no way whatsoever had ship or crew committed any act by which they could have whose flag they bore. This ship, so circumstanced, has been fired at upon the high seas by a Spanish vesce That opposition, if not worse, was expected by the chiefs of the colony may be argued from
AN ORDER IN COUNTY.

AN ORDER IN COUNTY.

Insued at Havana by the Governor General of Cuba on March 17, 1876. This order enacts that in lature all feeds and deliets commuted against the Treasury, both

three Cubaus, the only ones, in fact, that were in any real danger, and the only ones that the Spanish authorities were at all anxious to keep a hold upon.

THE FLAG DOES NOT COVER ALL.

Upon what principle and by what train of reasoning founded upon law, logic or common sense Captain Erekine, of Her Majesty's ship Eclipse, arrived at the conclusion stated, that he ought to make a DESTINCTION DETWEEN THE PRINSONS

pistinction netween the Persons g under the flag of the Octavia, and how far t ed by his instructions in the course pursued,

BARBADOS.

THE CONFEDERATION SCHEME THE WHOLE CAUSE OF THE TROUBLE-GOVERNOR HEN-NESSY ANSWERED BY THE COUNCIL HEADED BY SIR JOHN SEALY.

KINGSTON, Jam., April 24, 1876. The whole truth of the recent disturbance at Barba dos can be very briefly told. Mr. Hennessy, the Gov ernor has attempted to force his scheme for the conlature against the positive instructions of Lord Car-narvon, against the wishes of the most intelligent of the population and the members of the Council, headed by Sir John Sealy. His principal champions have been Sir Graham Briggs and Colonel Porter. They have expossibility of their owning land and sitting as legislators if all having influence will use it in behalf of the Governor's plans. The Governor desires to destroy the present form of representative government and ply a council, composed of men appointed by the gov-ernment. The people of Barbados have for upward of 200 years enjoyed the privilege of electing their own lawmakers, and are naturally averse to having that system of government such as has been ungener imposed upon this island. Governor Eyre and Gover-nor Hennessy may have had excellent ideas, but neither has shown the first qualification for dealing

offectively with West Indian difficulties.

DETAILS OF THE FIRST FIGHT.

As the Barbados Globe remarks:—"The country continues to be stirred to its centre by political agitation, which has been set on foot by the agents of confederation, not working openly, but by secretly sowing sedition and dissension among the agricultural laborers. Of course the government epideavors to throw the blame of the agitation on others. It is pretended that the meetings that have been heid by the inhabitants to protest against the machinations of the Governor's emissaries have produced this feeling of discontent. Nothing can be more absolutely false, for these meetings were never set on foot until the people were aroused to the necessity of making some attempt to counteract this growing restlessness in the country.

soil that as Bisckmans, since the Governor has left it, more than one quarrel has ensued between these people as to the contemplated possession of particular spots of land. Nay, more. Is it not a fast that among the lowest class of the populace the impression provails that they have a carrie boanche for the commission of crime, because the sentence of the law will not be carried out? We challenge any one to say that this agriation prevailed on the arrival of the Governor. We challenge any one to deny that the country is in a perious statu of excitement; and we ask what reasonable conclusion can be crawn but that some

BANGEROUS AGITATION HAS LEEN SET OF POOT?

"We will give a brief statement of the facts. Two meetings had been arranged for the day in question. One of these was held at speightstown, at which the Hon. N. Fodringham, E. P. Haric and a most influential gatuering of proprietors and their families were present. At was here after a loyal and most enthusastic meeting that the speakers were to have proceeded to Mount Prospect. Owing to the sudden institution of the ilmess of a relation of one gentleman, and from information received otherwise, it was finally resolved that the parkers, where, it was finally resolved that the parkers of a relation of one gentleman, and from information received otherwise, it was finally resolved that the parkers, which is not only the proceed to go the state of the summary of the people became unaccountably excited, and commenced an assault on the party. The piot was out. Incited by some structous secundrel titake place. No sooner was this announcement made than a portion of the people became unaccountably excited, and commenced an assault on the party. The piot was out. Incited by some structous secundrel they had intended an assault on the party. The piot was out. Incited by some structous secundrel they had been proved to the summary of the proper secundary in the cited by some structous shall be a summary of the proved secundary of the declaration of the proved secund

Legislature concerned." And the House of Assen entertain a solemn conviction that the Secretary State and the English people would strongly depre-any attempt to carry a measure of confederation these islands by setting class against class, or by an ing a spirit of discontent or schism in this ancient loyal and withal peaceful and contented colony."

"THE LOSS AND THE GAIN."

LECTURE BY REV. HENRY WARD BEECHER IN ATD OF THE PROJECT FOR POUNDING A SOL DIERS' HOME FOR NEW YORK STATE.

Last night the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher lectured In the way of losses the chief dweit upon by the apeaker were the enormous loss of life, the rejudices envenomed, and certain grave evils of nore subtle character. The gains summarized were:sectional legislation; the establishment of mutual respect between the contending sections; the distridanger to the manhood of the North; the better

the house was crowded in every part. Upon coming forward he was greeted with tumultuous cheering, again and again renewed. He was introduced, if such

mme family. Add to this the losses in a religious point of view, which can hardly be overestimated.

Beyond these there were certain grave evils of a more subtle character which had been gradually pervading the country ever since the struggle, among which might be cumerated the expansion of the currency, the stimulation of avaries, the creation of initious values, the disease of disordered hope, the unsettlement of the country's industry by the feverish overproduction of all the commodities of life. Apropos of this, it should be romarked that, instead of being bad signs, the present stagnation of trade and the universal pressure, the period of distress through which we are going are really signs of the nation's convelecence after a long and acute fever. The present inaction is therefore good as necessary to a perfect restoration of the patient to beath. These evils are obvious, but they are not any greater than are usually incurred by nations in such an upheaval as accompanied the destruction of slavery.

The first victory, which was the fruit of this portentous struggle, was the restoration of the moral sense of the nation. The North had, in a large measure, pandered to the pre-slavery feelings and ideas of the South, because of the great business interests which were at stake. Here the lecturer graphically depicted the condition of things during his youth and early manhood, when any one in the North favoring liberty, especially in the case of the negro, was tabooed and made au outcast. He exuatiated at length upon the damaging character and effects of legislation where the interests of one section, and not of the whole country, were consulted. Selfish legislation, he contended, would eventually defeat itself and ruin its promotera. This doctrine was very pointed at length upon the damaging character and effects of legislation where the interests of one section, and not of the whole country was the inauguration of an era of mutual respect, masmuch as each halleaned what the other country base the interests of

VICTORIA IN ARMS AGAIN.

Victoria C. Woodbull will lecture to-night at the Cooper Institute. Her subject is not exactly described in the circulars, but it is taken from the words:-"The uered."

Mrs. Woodhuil's daughter will give a Shakespearian

THE MARINE COURT CLERKSHIP.

Mr. John Savage, appointed by the Judges of the Marine Court to succeed J. D. Coughlin as Chief Clerk, was yesterday aworn into office in open court. All the Judges were present. Chief Justice Shea administered the oath of office. Mr. Savage will periect his bonds to-day, when he will at once enter upon the duties of his office. BAD FOR LONGSHOREMEN.

For the past year the majority of the European steamship companies have been paying their laborers weekly wages on an average of \$15 a week. Yesterday the German lines at Hoboken, on account of the scarcity of work, reverted to the old system of paying their men twenty-five cents for each hour's work.

BELKNAP.

Proceedings Before the High Court of Impeachment.

THE QUESTION OF JURISDICTION.

Argument of Mr. Blair, of Counsel for

AN ANVASION ON MAGNA CHARTA

Response of Mr. Lord on the Part of the Managers of the House.

The Senate resumed to-day the consideration of the articles of impeachment against W. W. Belknap, late

and the minutes of the Senate, sitting as a court of im-Senator Johnston, of Virginia, who was absent when

was called, and the oath was administered to him by

was called, and the oath was administered to him by
Mr. Ferry, President pro tem.
The order recently adopted "that the Senate proceed
first to hear and determine the question whether W.
W. Belknap, the respondent, was amenable to trial by
impeachment for acts done as Secretary of War, notwithstanding his resignation of said office, and that the
managers and counsel in such argument discuss the whether the matters in support of the jurisdiction ings subsequent to the articles of impeachment can be thus alleged if the same are not averred in said arti-

cles," was read by the Secretary.

Mr. Carpenter, of counsel for the accused, said he wished to suggest that if it was the intention of the to the counsel and he had no doubt to the Roard of

week would come in the middle of it. Notody supposed that the arguments could be finished by Monday next.

Mr. Manager Lord said the managers preferred to go on with the argument if there could be a consecutive hearing, but if it was to be broken by an adjournment next week they would prefer not to go on now. His experience here had taught him that in a session of Saturday and Monday little could be done. On behalf of the managers he desired to say that unless it was certain that the Court would sit from day to day until the arguments were all in they preferred to have them postponed until after the reasembling of the Senate.

Mr. Carpenter submitted an order that the further trial of the cause be postponed until Monday, the 15.h of May.

Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, submitted an order that this Court adjourn until half-past twelve o'clock P. M. Monday, May 15, and that the arguments on the question of jurisdiction be confined to eight hours on each side.

Mr. Saroent, of California, moved to strike out the clause limiting the time for argument. Agreed to.

The order was then rejected—yeas 21, nays 40.

The question then being on the motion submitted by Mr. Carpenier to adjourn to the 15th ints. It was witndrawn, being the same as the proposition of Mr. Sherman.

Mr. Black, of counsel for the respondent, said he

drawn, being the same as the proposition of art onerman.

Mr. Black, of counsel for the respondent, said he was requested by counsel for the respondent and the managers to say that if the extension of time until the 15th inst, asked for should be granted the arguments would then be concluded as soon as if they were to go on now, as counsel would have more time to prepare and could make their argument more conesse.

Mr. Surmax, of Ohio, then renewed his motion that the Senate sitting as a court of impeachment adjourn until the 15th inst, and that arguments on the question of jurisdiction be confined to nine hours on each side. Rejected—yeas 22, nays 33.

The argument on the question of jurisdiction was then commenced.

series by the presecution in the filloust companions to the country to soil office, which was that all percola were public to injusted the precoding, and whose laws and chapter and the precoding and th